Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 16, 2001 TO MARCH 23, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	February 167.1	0.1%	5.6%	The Composite Leading index rose by 0.1% in February. Four of the ten components declined, with the largest decreases recorded in the stock market (4.9%), and new orders of durables (0.8%). The largest gains were in housing index (1.0%), with furniture and appliance sales and M1 money supply both edging up (0.5%). Business and personal services employment also edged up 0.2% led by Alberta's vigorous demand.
Consumer Price Index	February			Alberta's CPI increase of 3.6% from February 2000 was the second highest among provinces, after Prince Edward Island (3.7%). Food and energy price increases are the main source of the upward pressure to the CPI. The CPI for Canada increased 0.4% in February, and 2.9% from the same month in 2000. The core inflation index (excluding food and energy) was up 0.5% from January, and up 2.0% from February 2000.
Alberta	118.8	2.4%	3.6%	
Canada	115.2	0.4%	2.9%	
Retail Sales ($millions)	January			In January, Canadian retail sales increased by 0.6% from the previous month, marking a third consecutive monthly gain. Strong employment, recent tax cuts, and interest rate reductions by the Bank of Canada all contributed to continued growth in retail sales. All provinces recorded increased retail sales this month, except for British Columbia (-1.0%), Quebec (-0.8%), and Nova Scotia (-0.8%). Largest gains were recorded in Saskatchewan (3.3%), Manitoba (2.3%), and New Brunswick (2.3%).
Alberta	2,776	1.5%	9.4%	
Canada	23,754	0.6%	7.2%	